



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

July 6, 2005

News Release

PREDATOR ARRESTED BY ICE IN RHODE ISLAND

Subject was previously deported from the U.S. by ICE

PROVIDENCE, RI—A 36-year-old predator was arrested here Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Fernando Lopez Ramirez, a citizen of Guatemala, was initially arrested by Providence Police and charged with second-degree child molestation. He was subsequently released from state custody after posting a surety bond. Through background checks, ICE special agents identified Lopez Ramirez as having been previously removed from the United States in 1996.

ICE arrested Lopez Ramirez and reinstated his prior order of removal. He is currently being held in ICE custody pending his removal from the country.

“Those individuals who commit these reprehensible acts will be punished,” said Matthew J. Etre, interim special agent-in-charge of ICE in New England. “Foreign nationals who victimize our children will not only face the criminal charges brought against them, but also face expulsion from the U.S.”

This arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,750 individuals arrested nationwide. ICE in New England has arrested over 185 predators New England wide, more than 27 of which have been arrested in Rhode Island.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.